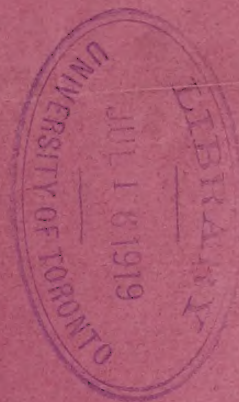


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UMBERTO SILVAGNI



The Italian National Revindications at the Congress of Peace



== A summary of THE ITALIAN NATIONAL REVINDICATIONS AT THE CONGRESS OF PEACE
Published by the Italian Home Defence Committee, 56 b, Via Fontanella di Borghese - Rome - 1919. ==

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The Italian National Revindications at the Congress of Peace.

This is a translation of the principal parts of this book recently published, in support of the Italian aspirations and demands at the Congress of Peace. This book has been written in French to facilitate the reading of it abroad, and it is dedicated to the « glorious memory of the irredent Italians who died for their country from 1914-1918 »; that is to WEBER, a Triestine and Garibaldi volunteer in the Argonne, who was handed over by the Germans to the Austrians and hung by these; to GIACOMO VENEZIAN, a Triestine university professor who joined the age of 53 and died fighting, he received the Gold Medal; to CESARE BATTISTI, FABIO FILZI and DAMIANO CHIESA, three Triestines; to FRANCESCO RISMONDO of Spalato, NAZZARIO SAURO of Capodistria, the hero of the Adriatic Sea, to all the volunteers of this war and the martyrs of their country who were hung by the Austrians with the exception of Filzi who was shot; to the Italian irredents who died fighting and who numbered several hundred.

« Italy's right to dominate in the Adriatic Sea, which is an internal sea, in fact a lake, that for many centuries has been called the GULF OF VENICE even in the foreign geographical books and dictionaries, cannot be disputed if taking into consideration that Italy, without the liberated territories, has a coast of 7000 kilometres in the Mediterranean Sea. The Italian supremacy in the Adriatic Sea could not exist without the possession of *at least a part* of the Oriental coast. In fact for Italy there never has existed and never will exist *safety* without this supremacy and partial possession. The open and low Italian coast is exposed to all attacks from the Oriental coast. While on the Oriental coast there exists at every step a natural port capable of harbouring a very strong fleet, Italy has none to compete with these and throughout *twentytwo centuries* this has been proved to be a danger to Italy ».

« Among the larger nations, Italy, with a population of 43.000.000, according to the official statistics issued in August 1918, and a much greater coast mileage than Great Britain, is the only nation that has no colonial empire, while all its ancient and modern traditions and its ever increasing population oblige it to seek eversea and transoceanic territories. Italy is accused of again wanting the boundaries of the Roman Empire (that lasted *eight centuries*, a fact that means much at the present moment when everyone is

appealing to historical rights) of the ancient possessions of Pisa, Venice and Genoa, that dominated the seas throughout the whole of the Middle Ages until the XVII century. These accusations are absolutely unfounded because Italy only entered the war to obtain the reintegration of those territories that *have always been inhabited by Italians*. It would be absurd to say that the Italian imperialism was started on the 24 th of May 1915, date of Italy's declaration of war on Austria. All other nations that want to revindicate territories, are asking to enforce the incorporation of a foreign population more or less numerous: man is a restless being; if he remained in the land he was born in, wars would not bring massacres and desolation on the face of this earth. But the nation that has civilized the whole world three times, during the Roman Empire, the Christian Age and the Renaissance, that has become united and independant through the *martyrdom* of thousands of its sons, asks for justice and justice only ».

2 « What Italy demands is quite contrary to the ideals of imperialism. Among the other nations that revindicate territories inhabited partially by people of other races, Italy is the nation that *will annex the least percentage*. While other nations (for ex: Bohemia and Poland) would annex, according to their demands, 30, 37 and 40 per cent of people belonging to other races, Italy's proportion would only be **THREE PER CENT** ».

3 « Mr. Sazonoff, Foreign Minister of Russia, said in the Autumn of 1916 that « *the names of the cities of Dalmatia, Cattaro, Ragusa, Spalato, Sebenico, Zara and Fiume are purely Italian* and that he had always considered them to be Italian ». « The Italian part of Dalmatia, reclaimed as a minimum of the national aspirations, is 150 kilometres along the Oriental coast of the Adriatic Sea and Italy is ready to leave 600 kilometres to the Slav nations, a coast on which there are excellent gulfs and incomparable roads ».

FIUME.

After this the author passes on to Fiume which has been an *Italian city* for SEVENTEEN CENTURIES. He proves that the ancient city of *Tarsactica* was built on the precise spot where Fiume stands today and it was destroyed in the year 800 by Charlemagne.

4 « As all other Italian cities of the Peninsular and Isles of Dalmatia, Fiume was a free Comune and independent during the Middle Ages. *Fiume has preserved this freedom up to today*. The most ancient document in the municipal archives of Fiume is dated the 10 th of January 1449 and is written in Italian. After this date **THERE IS NOT A SINGLE DOCUMENT THAT IS NOT WRITTEN IN ITALIAN**. Archibishops grandukes, kings, the Venetian Republic, Napoleon I and all the *Governments that had to negotiate with Fiume*, always wrote their communications in Italian ».

« *The public rights and independance of Fiume have been invariably maintained throughout twentytwo centuries*. The freedom of the Comune of Fiume, included in the *Civic Statute*, was acknowledged in a document signed by Maria

Theresia in 1779 and the Hungarian Governor in 1870, TAKING THE OATH IN ITALIAN, *swore to respect* this Treaty, adding in Latin these eloquent words: NIHIL DE VOBIS SINE VOBIS.

« The Hungarian Government tried, but without succeeding to *hungarianize* Fiume by means of immigration and tyranny. To obtain this they got a professor to invent Hungarian vocabularies for the Naval Accademy. The Government refused to allow Fiume an Italian upper school and forbade the students of Fiume to frequent any other upper schools of the Austrian Empire. They opened a Hungarian professional school and *forbade* the Comune of Fiume to start an Italian one. They did not support the Italian elementary schools but they opened a Hungarian school there. Notwithstanding all of this 65% OF THE INHABITANTS OF FIUME ARE ITALIAN, 28% are Slavs, Croats and Serbs and 6% Hungarians ».

« The Italian nationality has been proved during the war by the patriotic and heroic conduct of its inhabitants, by the revolt against Austria in October 1918, BEFORE the victory, by its repeated *plebiscitary manifestations* which have affected every nation. Buccari a small town near Fiume, celebrated by the entry of two small Italian motorboats (Gabriele d'Annunzio, the indefatigable defended of Quarnero and Dalmatia, was on board of one of them) according to the *Austrian census* has only 30% Italian. Today *every single peasant* in the surroundings of Buccari, *knows how to speak Italian* ».

« The German historian Th. Mommsen decided that *Quarnero* is the Oriental boundary of the tenth Italian region as established by Augustus. (Venetia et Histria). The Spanish historian Paolo Orosio in the 15th century A. D. and both the Arabian geographer Edisi and the *Greck* geographer Dioscorides in the 12th century, decided that the *Italian boundaries reached Buccari east* of Fiume. The defence walls of the city (*vallum*), built by the Romans to defend Istria and Quarnero, still exist. These walls follow the chain of mountains from Mount Nevoso (Schneeberg) and Mount Bittorai down to the sea, east of Buccari, and end at the ROCK OF ST. MARCUS, the name of which is thoroughly Venetian and Italian. At this rock end the Julian Alps, *so called in honour of Julius Caesar*, according to the *chorographic map of the Alps that surround Italy*, published by the General Staff of the Kingdom of Sardinia in 1848; that is, *three years before* King Carl Albert declared the first independant war on Austria ».

« When the Roman defence walls (*vallum*) ceased to be used as fortifications, as the other *vallum* did in Pannonia, Dacia, Germany, Alsace and England (*the walls of Hadrian and Settimus Severius*) they became the frontier between two races ».

« Fiume, from 1208 on, belonged to the diocese of Pola, which is under the *jurisdiction of the Patriarch of Venice*. All the churches of ISTRIA AND DALMATIA were under the authority of the Venetian Patriarch for *Nine Centuries*. It was only in 1866 after Venice was given back to Italy that Emperor Francis Joseph refused to acknowledge the authority of the Venetian Patriarch over Fiume Istria and Dalmatia ».

« The celebrated French geographers Malte Brun and Eliseo Reclus call the *city of Fiume Italian*. The German historian Nissen acknowledge MOUNT BITTORAI, EAST OF BUCCARI, TO BE THE ITALIAN FRONTIER. The German geographer Krobs affirms that *Fiume is open on the Istrian side and closed on the Dalmatian side*. Another German geographer, Lukas, claims the Italian frontier to be EAST OF THE FIUMARA, a small river on the left side of which stands Fiume ».

The author cites the works, volumes and pages of all the writers named. We do not repeat these citations here so as to be brief.

« Even the dead proclaim loudly and strongly the Italian nationality of Fiume. An Italian priest, who visited the cemetery of Fiume in *December 1918*, examined the inscriptions on *250 tombs* and found that *247 were in Italian* and the other 3 were in Slav ».

(Letter published in the « *Gazzetta di Venezia* » and the « *Popolo di Italia* » 4 / 1 / 19).

The author does not dwell long on Fiume because the *Italian nationality of this city is as evident* as the English nationality of London, the French of Paris, the American of New York, the Argentine of Buenos Aires, the Brazilian of San Paolo, although each one of these capitals has several hundred thousands, if not more than a million, foreign inhabitants. It is therefore unnecessary to insist on the *indisputable Italian nationality of Fiume*, the CITY THAT WANTS TO BE UNITED AGAIN TO ITALY.

DALMATIA.

After having shewn the geological and geographical character of Dalmatia that proves this territory to be absolutely Italian and declared to be so by the most celebrated German geologists, geographers, zoologists and botanists, whose works are cited, and who are Ratzel, Penk, Kebelt, Beck, von Mannagotta, Forster, Krobs, Herz, Wottstein, Worner, Oberhammer, Krotschmayr, Dverak, Strzygowski, the author observes that in the *geography book* used in the *Military Schools at Vienna*, published at Gratz in 1843, pag. 4. Dalmatia is said to belong to Lombardy and Venetia is among the *Italian territories* of the Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy.

But what is very important is Napoleon's judgement in his « *Correspondence Oeuvres à Sainte-Hélène*, vol. XXIX. pag. 61, 62, 72, 73, 77. In the geographical description of Italy and the way to defend her frontiers, Napoleon says that « the natural boundaries of Italy are established with precision as if it were an island. In the West these limits are traced from the mouths of the Vare; in the East and North these limits are *Istria, Dalmatia and the summits of the Alpi Retiche* ».

« In calculating the surface of Italy, Napoleon again names these regions saying: in this calculation are not included Dalmatia, Istria, that part of the Swiss-Italian villages that are situated on this side of the Alps, Canton Ticino and all *that part of Tyrol from where the waters flow into the River Adige and*

is situated this side of Mount Brennero..... On the Oriental side the natural division of the mountains would pass between Laybach (Lubiana) and the River Isonzo, and would reach the Adriatic Sea at Fiume ».

« Napoleon goes on to say « that no land is situated as favourably as this Peninsular for becoming a great maritime power: it has 280 leagues of coast from the mouths of the Vaire to the Straits of Sicily; and from the Straits of Sicily to the Otranto Channel... The three islands of Corsica, Sicily and Sardinia have 530 leagues of coast: Italy including those large and small islands has about... The coast of *Dalmatia*, *Istria* and the *mouths of the Cattaro* and the *Ionian Isles* that were formerly dependant on Italy are not herein included... Sicily, Malta, Corfu, *Istria Dalmatia* and especially *Ragusa* offer ports and shelter for the largest fleets ».

« Italy therefore as described by Napoleon is *much larger* than that asked for to day and for which many accuse Italy of *imperialism*.

« Napoleon, during his exile at St. Hélena twice spoke of his plan for the Unity of Italy. The second time he told Dr. Antonmarchi: I intended making a compact and independant power of the united Italian States... Rome would have become the capital; I would have restored and beautified it... From the Alps to the sea, it would have become one dominion. *I had already begun to carry out my plan in the interest of the Italian country.* (*Mémoires du docteur Antonmarchi, Les derniers moments de Napoléon. Tome 11 pages 432 433. Paris, Barrois, 1825*).

Now this plan, which Napoleone has begun to carry out with his magnificent victories, and the Peace Treaties of 1805 and 1809 (says the author) gave back to Italy ISTRIA, DALMATIA AS FAR AS ANTIVARI, Carinzia Carniola and Croatia as far as the Port of Agram, from here on to the confluence of the Una in Sava and along this river till its sources. In a historical moment in which the memory, words, deeds and achievements of Napoleon are recalled at every instant, the will of the great soldier and Statesman ought to have an indisputable importance also in regard to Italy. It should be remembered that the pretended Italian *imperialism* does not include either Carinzia, Carniola, Croatia, Corfu or the Ionian Isles but only FIUME, BUCCARI and ITALIAN DALMATIA and that is: 150 kilometres of coast out of a total of 700 kms ».

The author quotes the words out of a book used to day in French schools. The description of Dalmatia as far as the mouths of and including the Cattaro in this book is as follows: *The whole of the Dalmatian coast is a PART OF ITALY: IT IS THE ENTRANCE TO THE ORIENT.* (Fallex et Mairey, L'Europe, VI edition selon le programme de 1902. Paris Ch. Delagrave, pag. 350).

The author develops the part in regard to *historical rights* with original ideas and quotations. He observes that the historical reasons are confounded with the necessary military defence, for Fiume and Dalmatia, in regard to Italy, as for all the frontier regions in all other countries of the world.

He shows that France annexed Alsace Lorraine firstly, after the war during the reign of Louis XIV and secondly by means of Louis XV's marriage to Maria Leczinska, both times for historical and strategical reasons. For those same reasons the three families of the Capetingia race made their way from the Isle of France to the Gulf of Gascogne, the Pyrenees, the Channel the Ocean, the Mediterranean, the Rhine and the Alps. This was done to consolidate the frontiers and to defend the country against an enemy invasion; and on the other hand to renew the unity of the ancient Gauls that had only been real and lasting under the Roman domain. Italy, by her *fifth* war for independance and which has costed torrents of blood and hard sacrifices, has reconquered her frontiers in the Adriatic Sea that she had for *twentytwo centuries*, the frontiers that were held till 1797 and were re-established in 1805 and 1809 and enlarged by France; and basing her demands on historical rights, twenty-two times centural, she asks for strategical guarentees for her frontiers. After all that Italy has sacrificed, suffered, *after the failure of Russia*, the ACTIVE COOPERATION OF WHICH WAS THE CHIEF GUARENTEE GIVEN BY THE ALLIES TO OBTAIN *the entry of Italy into the war*, all that Italy has asked for more than was established by the Treaty of London, is Fiume and the cities and coast of Italian Dalmatia.

The author observes that these twentytwo centuries of history prove:

1°) - That the situation up to day gives no *guarentees of safety to Italy in the East* or for her dominion of the Adriatic Sea.

2°) - That this safe and dominion cannot be had without the possession of the *Dalmatian Isles* and *at least a part of the Dalmatian coast*. To establish facts and ideas the author has only examined three periods of the hystory of 2200 years.

A) - *Ancient*. Always quoting foreign writers, the author proves by Napoleon III's Histoire de Jules César and the Englis historian, E. Liddel's History of Remo, that the Romans conquered Dalmatia in the year 230 B. C., *because it was absolutely necessary for their safety*. This necessity led the Romans to conquer Dalmatia *three centuries before* conquering the Alps.

Augustus, in dividing the provinces of the Roman Empire between the Senate and the Emperor, reserved the provinces that were situated on the frontiers (*lines*) for the latter as they wese the most exposed to danger in time of war. Among those *Caesarean provinces*, Belgian Gaul, German Gaul, Rezia, Vindolicia, and Nerico were *Istria and Dalmatia*

Later on in the dividing of the Roman Empire, begun by Diocletian and afterwards confirmed by Costantine and rendered definite by Theodosius. ISTRIA AND DALMATIA CONTINUED TO BE CONSIDERED PART OF ITALY.

B) - *In the Middle Ages*. The reflections and quotations of the Author from this historical period are of the greatest importance. We here give a rapid summary, quoting a few phrases of the book:

In the year 476 A. D. the Roman Empire in the East was destroyed. *The first barbarian conqueror* of Italy, Odeacre, to secure the dominions of Italy, undertook the *conquest of Dalmatia four years afterwards*.

When the Emperor Justinian in 535, to turn the Goths out of Italy, charged Belisario, who was in Africa, to conquer Sicily and then to pass on to the Italian Peninsular, he sent one of his generals, Mondone, to liberate Dalmatia of the Goths. And at that same time the celebrated Greek historian Procopio, who accompanied Belisario, wrote in his War Histories of Justinian that *Dalmatia was Italy's stronghold*.

Four centuries after another Greek Emperor, Costantino Porfirogenite, who was also an author, called Dalmatia Italian coast and territory. During the conquests of Belisario and the wars of his successor, Narsete, and during the whole period of the Greek deminion, *Istria and Dalmatia were dependant on the exarchate of Ravenna*. But when the Goths, during their struggle with Belisario, were again victorious, their king, Totila, as soon as he was master of Ravenna, sent his troops to disembark at Salona, Spalato of to day, before marching on Rome.

Here the author recalls the rapine of the Venetian times in the churchos of Venice by the pirates of Istria and Dalmatia and the pursuit by the Doge Candiano 111, who liberated the brides, Killed tho greater part of the pirates and conquered Capodistria in Istria and Narenta in Dalmatia. « *In 997, that is 800 YEARS before Campoformio, the riunion of the Oriental coast of the Adriatic Sea was accomplished* and the Doge of Venice took the title of *Duke of Dalmatia, a title that washeld till the fall of the Venetian Republic in 1797* ». Here tho author cites Sismondi's *History of the Italian Republics during tho Middle Ages*, (vol: 1, pag. 162 e 163). Sismondi, who was a Swiss, relates in his noted work how Venice with its naval expedition in 997 recieved the HOMAGE of *all the cities of Istria*; and at ZARA, « the oldest ally of Venice in Dalmatia » the expedition rociovod the *homage of all the cities in the region of Salona (Spalato), of Sebenico, Trau, Nona, Belgrado, Almissa, and RAGUSA; ALL THE ISLANDS AND CITIES ACKNOWLEDGED OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL THE SUPREMACY OF VENICE* ».

« It is therofore necessary to insist — says tho author — on the ROMAN and ITALIAN NATIONALITY of *Istria and Dalmatia* whore all the municipalities of the Roman Ages were transformed into free Comunes during the Middle Ages, as all the other cities of the Poninsular had done. Is it necessary to show more clearly that the *Italian nationality and race dominated absolutely at that time in the Adriatic Sea and maintained that dominion for more than ten conturios and without interruption?* »

« The INSEPARABILITY of the *Oriental Adriatic coast from Italy IS A HISTORICAL RIGHT*. During tho 11th century another conqueror Robert Guiscardo, founder of the Norman reign in the South of Italy, as soon as he was master of the Pouille, he set about to conquer Sicily on the one hand, and on the other to *occupy Corfu, the Ionian Isles and Durazzo*, where he defeated the Emperor Alessio Cammeno who hurriod with 60,000 men to defend the Adriatic coast ».

« During the Middle Ages the Venetian Republic was obliged more than once to hand over Dalmatia to the emperors of Costantinople and to

Hungary for periods more or less long. In 1109 the Republic undertook the *entire* defence and guardianship of the Italians on the Oriental coast and maintained this until 1797, that is for 386 years. But even during these temporary foreign dominions the ITALIAN NATIONALITY OF DALMATIA REMAINED UNALTERED. The laws, constitutions, municipalities (Statutes) archives, Latin dialects, monuments, pictures, sculptures, all the manifestations of the soul and conscience of the people, jealously preserved the Roman and Italian impress; to such an extent that DALMATIA in those times, *so a French historian relates*, AND ESPECIALLY THE CITIES OF SPALATO AND ZARA WERE AS INDEGNANT WITH THE BARBARIANS AS WERE THE CITIES OF PISA and Milan. (E. Sayons, *Historie de Hongrie*, Paris 1910) ».

Dalmatia gave Rome four emperors, including Diocletian, founder of Salona where he built the imposing palace (Palatium) the remains of which still exist at *Spalato* and from this palace of Dioclotian the city has taken its modern name. Later on in the 4th century Dalmatia gave to the Church of Roma the most Latin and Roman of the Fathers of the Church, St. Jerome; and in the 10th century, in the height of the Middle Ages, the monk who founded and named the Republic of San Marino was sent to Italy ».

C) - *Modern Times*. « This period lasted till 1797; it is expressed in one term only: *Venetian Dalmatia*, and lasted for 488 years. A great part of this period is marked by the struggles of Venice to *save, first of all the Slavs* then the Mediterranean and lastly Europe from the Mehometans: one hundred battles were fought on sea and on land by the Dalmatian Italian and the Venetians ».

« *The historical rights of Italian Dalmatia* in modern times, are *proved in the most convincing manner by the history of France and especially by Napoleon* . . . Before continuing the author here observes that « NATIONAL RIGHT IS NEVER PRESCRIBED; IT IS ETERNAL ».

FRANCE. NAPOLEON AND THE ITALIAN HISTORICAL RIGHTS. THE TREATY OF CAMPOFORMIA IS THE BEST PROOF OF THE ITALIAN NATIONALITY OF THE TERRITORIES OF THE ADRIATIC SEA.

In this part of the book the author illustrates summarily the facts that we here riassume to prove that *France indisputably acknowledges the Italian nationality of the higher Adige as far as the summits of the Retic Alps, of Istria, Fiume AND ALL THE ORIENTAL COAST OF THE ADRIATIC SEA AS FAR AS CORFU* and of which Italy has only asked for a small part.

« In 1797, after the armistice of Leoben and before the Peace of Campoformia, the Directoire had a letter written to General Bonaparte saying that: « as Austria need not to taken into consideration any more he could expell the Austrians *from Italy*: at the very most he was to leave them Istria and Dalmatia . . . Talleyrand, Foreign Minister to Bonaparte, 15th of September 1797). Then modifying the first decision the Directoire insisted on LEAVING TO

VENICE HER ADRIATIC POSSESSIONS, the PERFECT LEGITIMACY of which the acknowledged, because in concluding they said: « We did not enter Italy to *trade in a people* ». (Talleyrand's letter of the 21st of September 1797). A few days later, the Minister Talleyrand, in another letter of the Directoire said that he wanted « ITALY TO BE FREE as far as the River Isonzo; and AT THE MOST TO ABANDON ISTRIA AND DALMATIA ». (Letter dated the 29th of September, 1797).

« For the Republican France of the Convention and Directoire, *Istria* and THE WHOLE OF DALMATIA were absolutely Italian territories. But the same thing HAS ALWAYS BEEN BELIEVED AND AFFIRMED BY ALL THE WRITERS, HISTORIANS AND POLITICAL MEN OF FRANCE. For France's most eminent historian of to day, *Istria*, *Fiume* and *Dalmatia* are the « coasts of Venice ». (Albert Sorel, *L'Europe et la Revolution Française*, Vol. V, pag. 229, Paris 1907).

« During the negotiations at Campoformia, the *Italian nationality of Istria and Dalmatia* were again solemnly affirmed by the Austrian Plenipotentiary, Count de Cobentzel for Austria as well as by General Bonaparte for France. In fact Bonaparte in maintaining Istria and Dalmatia added that « he was entirely contrary to the idea of asking any other European State to witness such a SCANDALOUS deed as that of the spoliation of the Venetian Republic: » and the reply of the Austrian Plenipotentiary was that: « the DISMEMBERMENT of the Venetian Republic was proposed to us by you ». (Report and letter of Cobentzel; Bonaparte's letter to Talleyrand).

« But France insisted on having from Austria the line of the Rhine and Belgium. The Austrian Plenipotentiary then asked for *Venice* in exchange: this name naturally implied *Istria* and *Dalmatia*. Thus it was that the Treaty of Campoformia in 1797 decided that « Venice, with her provinces as far as the higher Adige, *Istria*, *Dalmatia*, the *Venetian Isles of the Adriatic Sea* and the mouths of *Cattaro* » were to be taken from Italy and given to Austria ».

« This Treaty of Campoformis has cost Italy and Italians a century of foreign and criminal oppression; a LARGE NUMBER OF GLORIOUS MARTYRS OF THEIR COUNTRY, AND FIVE WARS FOR INDEPENDANCE, the last of which has cost 500,000 dead and another 500,000 mutilated and invalids, enormous sacrifices and expenses that in comparison are superior to those of France; this Treaty of Campoformia is said by the French historian: « to be connected with the treaties of the old regime and it is the direct consequence of the treaties for the division of Poland. »

The author observes that: « the Directoire, Talleyrand, Napoleon, the Austrian Plenipotentiary Cobentzel, the French historian Sorel solemnly bear witness before the tribunals of history that Venice WAS TAKEN with violence; that *Istria* and *Dalmatia* are ITALIAN TERRITORIES. After such proof, this truth ought to be acknowledged by all, and especially by France, in good faith. « And is it not true that when France invoked the help of Italy in 1914 and 1915 and celebrated Italy's entry in the war, the whole of the French and English press exhorted Italy to liberate the Adriatic Sea to dominate there

afterwards? And have not 22 centuries proved that as long as the Oriental coast is occupied by enemies, the Adriatic Sea is not free and Italy has no guarantees for her safety?

Here the author cites the testimony of the celebrated French historian Adolf Thiers, an extreme enemy of the Italian unity and who sided with the Popes for the Temporary Power. Eight years after the Treaty of Campoformia the Emperor Napoleon made good the error of General Bonaparte by the *restitution of Istria, Dalmatia, Fiume, Trent and the higher Adige to Venice and Italy*, and other territories that Italy, contrary to any idea of imperialism, has not thought of asking for to-day. This restitution was brought about by the Peace Treaty of Presburg, the 26th of decembre 1805, following the victory of Austerlitz. Napoleone « wanted to obtain the **COMPLEMENT OF ITALY** by his treaty; that is **THE VENETIAN STATES**. Venice needed *Oriental Friuli, Istria and Dalmatia*, in fact *Italy as far as the Julian Alps and the Adriatic Sea with both its shores....* And so *Triest and the mouths of Cattaro* passed into the hands of the French. **THESE TERRITORIES WERE TO HAVE BEEN UNITED TO THE KINGDOM OF ITALY. THE SEPARATION between the two Crowns of France and Italy was again stipulated...** The treaty **WAS WELL CONCEIVED** for *Italy, s tranquillity...* The Treaty of Presburg is *one of the most glorious and best conceived*, that Napoleon ever concluded. » (A. Thiers. *Histoire du Consulat et de l' Empire*, vol. II livre XXIII, pag. 109, 110, 115, 116 - Brussels, 1846).

The author asks if « the peace that Italy wants to-day, after having fought for three and a half years with the Allies, gaining a splendid victory that has caused the fall of the Austrian Hungarian Empire and has determined the sudden ruin of the German Empire, and in *asking only for a small part* of the oriental coast of the Adriatic sea instead of an as in 1797, is unjust, inglorious, badly conceived and unpleasant for the Allies? »

Then the author observes there where he writes of the following Peace Treaty (The Treaty of Vienna, 14th of October 1809) stipulated after the victory of Wagram, for which Napoleon gave back to the *Kingdom of Italy* the whole of *Trentino the higher Adige as far as the summits of the Alpi Retiche*, that *Thiers affirms recently* **AND SEVERAL TIMES**, that **ALL THOSE TERRITORIES, that are surrounded on the North by Mount Brennero and the Alpi Retiche, ARE ITALIAN.** (A. Thiers. livre. XXXV). He also observes that in the Treaty of Vienna « Austria **GAVE BACK** the province of Villach, Carniola and the right bank of the River Sava as far as the Turkish frontier, to Italy; « and that because France insisted on it to *unite Italy to Dalmatia by means of a wealthy province.* » (A. Thiers, livre XXXVII, pag. 161, 247, 255). To day Italy does not ask for any... connection with that small part of the Oriental Adriatic coast that is Italian Dalmatia. « Therefore to deny the clear Italian historical rights one ought to turn to.... future historians and history ».

The proofs continue in this short and concise book. In August 1809 Napoleone told General Bubna, who was sent as a special envoy to the Emperor of Austria at Schoenbrun to intimate the conditions of peace stipulated on the

following 13th of October: « that *Tyrol* (higher Adige) *shall never belong to the House of Austria because it SEPARATES ITALY FROM GERMANY*; « and insisted on the CAPITAL INTEREST that he had in assuring the *connection of Dalmatia with the Italian States....* if he were not in war already he would have *started one for this purpose.* » (Reports of General Bubna Septem. 1809 - *Thiers*, livre XXXVII pag. 249; *Sorel*, vol. VII, pag. 383).

After the Peace of Campoformia (1797) the French Minister at Venice, Lallement, wrote to the Directoire that « *for the one fact of having occupied ISTRIA and DALMATIA*, the Austrian Monarchy is more threatening to Italy and more harmful for France, after than before the war. » (Paris. Archives of the Foreign Office, Correspondence from Venice. vol. 253 and Memoires Venice vol. 37).

« Napoleone on the 20 th of Decembre 1805 got the Minister Taleyrand to write to the French Ambassador at Berlin, Laforest, that in the peace discussions at Presburg « *the article that concerns Italy comprizes the WHOLE OF ITALY.* » In fact article XXIII of this Treaty says ISTRIA VENETIAN DALMATIA, the MOUTHS OF THE RIVER CATTARO and the VENETIAN ADRIATIC ISLES. » On the 26th of Decembre in the same year Napoleone wrote to Prince Eugene, Viceroy of Italy: « My cousin, peace has been signed this morning at five o'clock at Presburg,.. *The city of Venice and ITF STATES AS THEY WERE WHEN CEDED BY THE TREATY OF CAMPOFORMIA, form part of my KINGDOM OF ITALY. You may announce this article of the Treaty to my people of Italy.* » (Correspondance de Napoleon Ier, vol. XI, number 9619).

« The French General, Dumas, in proclaiming the Peace Treaty of Presburg to the population of Dalmatia the 16th of February 1806 said: « The Emperor Napoleon. *King of Italy and your King, UNITES YOU TO YOUR FATHERLAND.* »

Finally by a decree signed in Paris on the 30th of March 1806, Napoleon ordered: Article I: - *The Venetian States*, as they were when given by H. M. the Emperor of Germany according to the Treaty of Presburg, ARE UNITED DEFINITELY TO OUR REIGN OF ITALY WHICH THEY FORM PART OF. » Article III of this decree specifies that the Venetian States are DALMATIA and ISTRIA. Article IX says that the presumptive heir to the throne of Italy has a right to the title of *Prince of Venice.* »

« JOSEPH GARIBALDI in his *political will* (Paris. A, Savene 1891, pag 114) wrote that « Dalmatia is a *Latin territory where the primitive Roman Italic Venetian race* has never been *conquered or depressed* by Austria... *Its cities are nearly all of ROMAN and VENETIAN origin; its civilization has always been Italian. The revindication of Dalmatia by Italy is therefore JUST and LEGITIMATE.* »

« Some foreigners have thought fit to make use of the name and ideas of JOSEPH MAZZINI to obtain renunciations on the part of Italy... Mazzini, a statesman besides being a scholar, an exceptional writer, a conspirator and agitator and precursor of the Italian unity, hoped for a moment, as many

others of to-day have hoped uselessly, that the Croat would rebel and arm themselves against the Austrian Hungarian Monarchy. In 1866, with the *idea of winning the war then begun by Italy against Austria*, he wrote:

Shew the Nothern Slavs Carloplago, Zara, Ragusa, Cattaro, Dulcigno and tell them *that once taken, these ports wile be the premium for their rebellion against Austria*. Mazzini's idea at that oment was that these ports (polities change according to events as every knows) here to be the RECOMPENSATION FOR AN ACTIVE COOPERATION of the Croats IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST AUSTRIA.

Mazzini always thought and taught that Dalmatia was to be returned to Italy. In 1851 he exhorted the Dalmatians to take up arms against Austria to constitute a State that was to be called MARITIME ITALY and was to form part of united and republican Italy. For this purpose Mazzini asked the Dalmatians to take the following oath which is eloquent enough: *For the love I bearto my CEUNTRY, ITALY, for the sea that our fathers THE ROMANS called MARE NOSTRUM, I swear to dedicate myself now and for ever for the conquest of united and republican Italy* ».

The author calls attention to the fact that the most authoritative interpreters of MAZZINI'S ideas, the ex republican deputy, R. Mirabelli, author, and the newspapers the «Terza Italia», organ of the Mazzinian party for the last twenty years, have quite lately supported the revindication of Dalmatia according to Mazzini's idea, repeating that Mazzini thought to give Dalmatia to the Slavs *not because he acknewledged any riight of theirs to it*, but as PAYMEET FOR THEIR INSURRECTION, but which in reality never took place, and in fact it happened then exactly as now that the *Slavs fought despezately against the Italians*. According to the precise affirmations of the *Italian Supreme Command* (see the papers «Roma» of Naples, 31st of January and 28th of February 1915 and the «Terza Italia» of the 29th of January 1919) the *Slavs fought desporately against the Italians up to the 5th of November. 1918* ».

THE COUNT OF CAVOUR in 1859, when te war with Austria broke out, had a memorandum presented to Napoleon III at Compiègne by the special envoy Salvagnoli in which was written that the WHOLE OF THE ADRIATIC COAST AND DALMATIA WERE REVINDICATED BY ITALY because he considered Italy and Dalmatia TO BE TWO INSEPARABLE LANDS. (N. Bianchi. *Documented History of diplomacy in Italy from 1814-1861*. vol. VIII; pag. 14).

«Count de Cavour, on the 28th of December 1860, after the Romagne and Marche had been freed from the Papal dominion through the defeat of the Papists at Castelfidardo, wrote to Lorenzo Valario, the Royal Commissioner in Ancona, recommending him to *avoid any phrase that might give reason to believe «that Italy aspired to liberate not only Venice BUT ALSO TRIESTE, ISTRIA DALMATIA* because that would become A TERRIBLE WEAPON IN THE HANDS OF ENEMIES, who would certainly profit of it to turn England against Italy as England would not willingly see (then) THE ADRIATIC SEA BECOMING AN ITALIAN LAKE as it was at the time of the Venetian Republic... For the present limit yourselves to put Ancona in a good state of defence;

THIS WILL OPEN UP THE WAY FOR A SPLENDID PROGRESS IN A FUTURE THAT OUR GRANDCHILDREN WILL NOT CONSIDER VERY FAR OFF. ».

Cavour died a few months later : these words were his political will.

« KING VICTOR EMANUEL II, *the Father of the Country*, in June 1866 when he began the fourth independence war against Austria, told the German envoy Bernhard that « two years before, he had thought of *sending an expedition in Dalmatia at the time of liberating Venice* ».

CARLO CATTANEO, the great patriot and writer of the *Renaissance*, wrote a letter in 1859 to the « Times » in which he « *proclaimed the Italian nationality of DALMATIA, ISTRIA, RAGUSA and CATTARO* » and he observed that « *THE SURRENDER of Dalmatia to the Venetian Republic took place many years before William the Conqueror set foot in England* ».

« The author and patriot, FRANCESCO DALL'ONGARO, wrote in 1848 that « *ISTRIA AND DALMATIA WERE ABSOLUTELY ITALIAN* ».

« The celebrated last Doge and President of the Venetian Republic (1848 - 1849) DANIEL MANIN, during the memorable defence against the Austrians, wanted the « *resurrection of Italian Dalmatia* ».

« F. D. GUERRAZZI, the great author and republican statesman, one of the leaders of Italian democracy, *ruined in bad faith by the Prussians* after the war of 1866, (Prussia was then the Ally of Italy against Austria) when Garibaldi was at the gates of Trent with his soldiers and the Italian army was on the banks of the River Isonzo, published a declaration in which was written : WE WHO ARE ITALIAN SPEAK OF VENICE WITH ITALIAN FEELINGS AND AS WITH VENICE *we have always considered all those provinces which formed part of the State of Venice when it was trown under the clays of the Austrian Eagle* by Napoleon, and that is : ISTRIA, DALMATIA and MOUTHS OF THE RIVER CATTARO AND THE DALMATIAN ISLES ».

The Milanese patriot, autor and Minister, CESARE CORRENTI wrote that : « Gorizia, Trieste, Istria, Tyrol AND ALSO THE DALMATIAN - LITORAL RECLAME THEIR ITALIAN NATIONALITY ». (Varicus Essays, vol. II pag. 82).

The author recalls how the *population of the Dalmatian cities* in 1797 when Dalmatia was given back temporarily to Austria by France, WITH TEARS IN THEIR EYES THEY FORMED A FUNERAL PROCESSION and *transported the standard of the Venetian Republic in church and there buried it under the chief altar*. He also recalls how Italians from every province, but espacially Neapolitans, *Istrians* and *Dalmatians*, hurried to defend the *Queen of Lagoons* (as Venice is often called) when it was besieged by the Austrians in 1849. One day two young *Dalmatians* presented themselves to the Doge Daniel Manin and told him : *Our father has sent us to Venice to defend St. Marcus. Having heard that the LION OF ST. MARCUS IS AWAKENED, he sends you two of his three sons. He also told us to greet the Doge and to tell him that if he were not too old he would have come himself to HELP YOU IN THE DEFENCE.*

The author recalls how the Dalmatians took part in the independence wars and the life of united and liberated Italy and how several Dalmatians became valliant officers, generals and writers, journalists and Ministers. There is a summary of the *ferocious war* carried on by Austria in Dalmatia *against the Italian language from the year 1882 on*. From that time on the Austrian Government *has not spent a penny* on the Italian schools; they have been kept open and provided for by the Dalmatians who have spent 600.000 crowns for those. The building of the Italian school at *Spalato* cost this heroic and patriotic city 58.000 crowns; that of the small tow Cittavecchia cost 60.000. The author recalls how in 1913 the Austrian Government was base enough to send a Croatian schoolmaster to Zara, paid with the money of those citizens, to teach Italian and WHO DROPPED HIS ARTICLES IN SPEAKING ITALIAN. EVERYONE who lives on the Dalmatian coast speaks Italian; *even the Croats who live in the mountains use Italian names* for their labour implements, domestic objets and all those things that one buys in the towns; *the Slavs of the Oriental Adriatic coast (who have not a language of their own only various dialects) ALWAYS USE ITALIAN WORDS for all that refers to ships, instruments, implements, manoeuvre, the winds, currents and navigation.*

The author recalls the scientific, literary and artistic glories of Dalmatia; among these who contributed to these are the celebrated MARCO POLO who discovered China and Iapan; MARCO ANTONIO DE DOMINIS, Bishop of *Trau*, precursor of Newton, condemned to be hung by the Court of Inquisition and whose body was afterwards burnt on Campo di Fiori in Rome; GIOVANNI LUCIO, *Sebenico*, historian; ELIO LAMPRIDIO of *Ragusa*, celebrated Italian astronomer; LUBIN of *Trau* and *Musafia* of *Spalato*, philologists and commentators of Dante etc.; and then FRANCESCO RISSMONDI of *Spalato*, who belonged to a wealthy family of shipowners, exiled Dalmatia in 1914, volunteer who was wounded and taken prisoner by the Austrians and then HUNG a few months before Cesare Battisti and other irredent martyrs.

The author recalls how *all the inhabitants of Zara ran down to the shore to receive* the victorious Italian soldiers and liberators ON THEIR KNEES, CRYING; he calls the heroism of the women of SPALATO that even to day have to put up with insults, persecutions and court trials because they openly proclaim the *religion of their Italian nationality*, and here the author concludes saying:

« Every patriot, historian and educated person must own that: *history and language make a country*. The history of Fiume and Dalmatia, of which we have given a summary here, *is represented by twentytwo centuries and two names: Rome and Venice*. The Italian language has always had and still has to day the most passionate worship on the Oriental Adriatic coast, the purest authors and orators, the most respected teachers: and in fact, love of their country is a religion among the inhabitants of the opposite shore of the Gulf of Venice. Therefore who could or would deny the absolute right to Italian nationality of the population of Fiume and Dalmatia, the most sacred right to be united to their Country?

